

ALC 63
CAMERON

SPEECHES

DAY FREEDOM DAY SPEECH

29 JUNE 1980 [2 pages]

1/21



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

<https://archive.org/details/GLC63-0012>

Gay Freedom Day Speech
29 June 1980
Barbara M. Cameron
Gay American Indians organization

Liberty and justice for all is this year's theme for our Gay Freedom Day Celebration. It's a broad statement that when taken at face value, encompasses the many who are not mainstream America. In the beginning when there was not going to a platform of politically conscious speakers, I thought it was blasphemous to have such a strong rallying call for the parade. It seemed more appropriate to have this year's theme change to "Entertainment and Jugglers" for all. ALIVE has just demonstrated that music can be a voice that is inspiring, a voice that brings a message of unification and appreciation for the diversity within our community.

Gay People are an oppressed class but there are those who have adopted the oppressive and suppressive tactics of heterosexual society by exercising censorship and perpetuating alienation and mistrust within our community.

In a recent issue of a gay newspaper, there was a letter to the editor written by a gay man who was outraged because he felt that our parade had been taken over by heavy chested lesbians and drag queens. We should not so quickly forget our gay history. It was the Puerto Rican drag queens who took the first major and courageous act of resistance against brutality and harassment of gay people. As for the heavy chested lesbians, there are many of us who have been working for the freedom of gay people for many years. It is very sad and unfortunate to discover that there are gay people who want to shut down the voices of truth because it doesn't benefit their pocketbook.

The leftist faggots hate the Castro Clones, the Castro Clones hate the effeminates, separatist gay men and women hate each other, bigots hate Chicano, Asian, Black and Native American gays, the flannel dykes mistrust the dykes in dresses and everybody is embarrassed by the drag queens. We must begin to stop this insane invalidation of each other. The heterosexual society does a better job of invalidating our lifestyle daily. We must replace this invalidation with a move to raise our consciousness about each other and a move to improve the quality of our relationships with each other.

Gay life is not silly games nor does gay freedom mean being able to go to Amelia's or the Midnight Sun every weekend or night. As some lesbians have found out, going to Amelia's or Peg's can be a brutal experience thanks to San Francisco's finest, the SFPD. Walking in the Castro has its elements of danger because of punks and thugs looking for a gay woman or man to beat up or harass.

I think because we live in what's called the gay mecca of the world, we become lazy in our attitudes about our own oppression and the oppression of other minorities. Because our city politicians are not grossly or publicly homophobic and because we have a gay supervisor, we think we really have it made in this town. But we cannot forget that it was a short 19 months ago that Harvey Milk was murdered and his murderer got away with nothing short of a heroes medal.

ALC 63
CAMERON

SPEECHES

GAY FREEDOM DAY SPEECH

29 JUNE 1980 [2 pages]

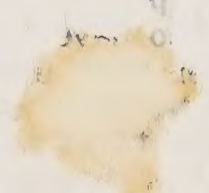
1/21

the
of

the
of

the
of

the
of



A

GLC 63
CAMERON

SPEECHES

GAY FREEDOM DAY SPEECH

29 JUNE 1980 [2 pages]

1/21

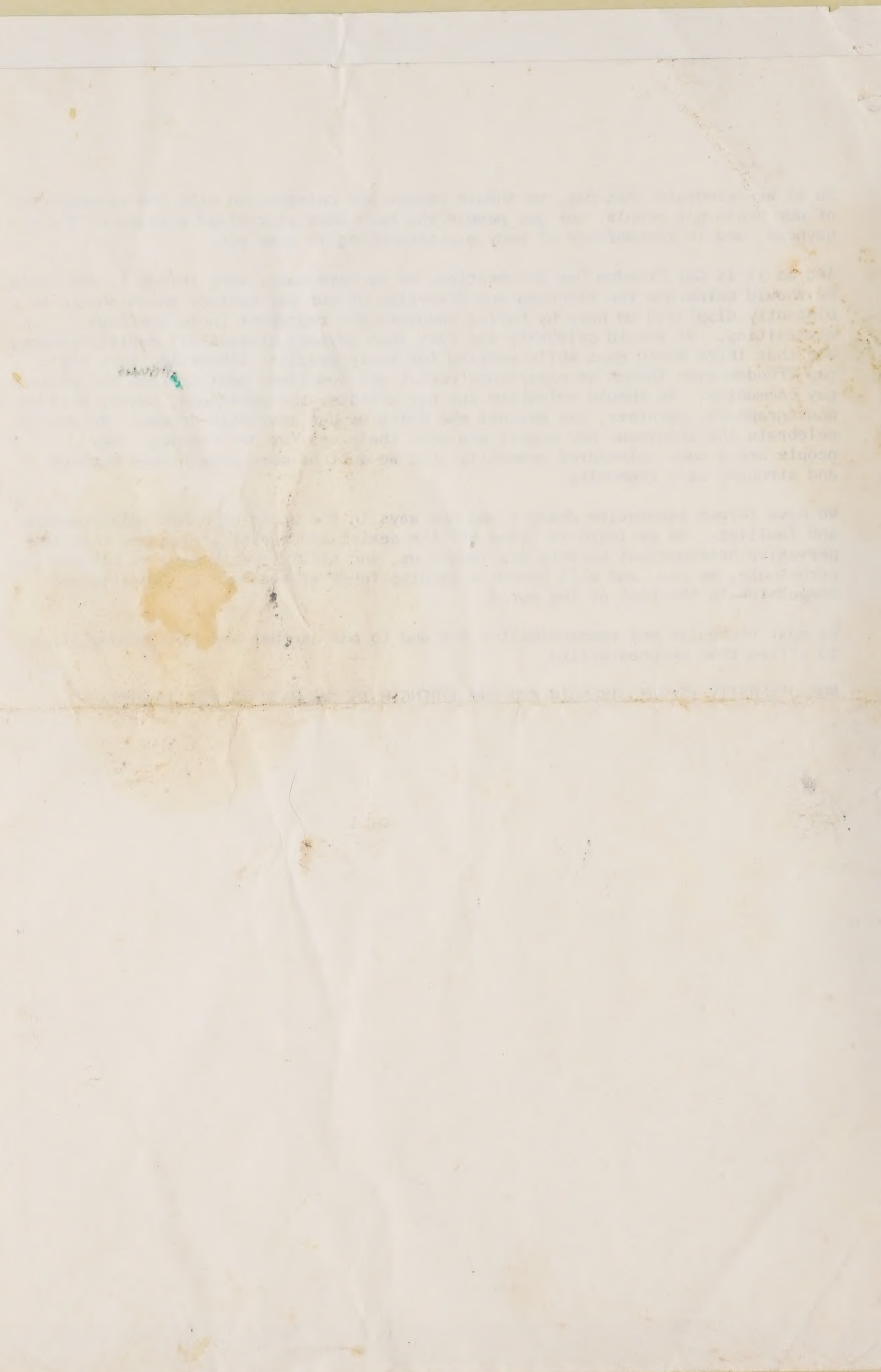
So as we celebrate this day, we should temper our celebration with the remembrance of our slain gay people, our gay people who have been victimized because of their gayness, and in remembrance of many gays struggling to come out.

And as it is Gay Freedom Day Celebration, we do have many, many things to celebrate. We should celebrate the richness and diversity of our gay culture which should be blatantly displayed up here by having speakers who represent those precious diversities. We should celebrate the fact that gayness crosses all racial borders, and that Third World gays while working for their peoples' liberation work for gay freedom even though we experience racist and sometimes hostile ~~from~~ ^{from the} white gay community. We should celebrate our gay artists, the musicians, poets, writers, photographers, painters, and dancers who bring us our aesthetic dreams. We should celebrate the anonymous gay people who work their ass for our freedom. Gay people are a many splendored community, but we must be more sensitively evolved and stronger as a community.

We have forged innovative changes and new ways in the realm of human relationships and families. As we learn to throw off the sexist and racist prejudices that the pervasive heterosexual society has taught us, and still tries to have us believe and perpetuate, we can and will become a shining force of teachers of humanity and compassion to the rest of the world.

We must recognize our responsibility for and to one another and take strong steps to affirm that responsibility.

OUR DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH AND OUR STRENGTH IS THE PATH TO OUR FREEDOM.



ALC 63
CAMERON

SPEECHES

DAY FREEDOM DAY SPEECH

29 JUNE 1980 [2 pages]

1/21

ALC 63
CAMERON
DAY FREEDOM DAY SPEECH
29 JUNE 1980
[2 pages]

